

"The past month will be remembered for a long time by photographers and those interested in kindred arts," volunteered a gentleman who has some fine work on exhibition at the photograph exhibition at the art gallery to a Star reporter, "as the month in which there was practically no sunshine, or, to state it more definitely, but seven and a half hours of sunshine, at least in this section of the country. To call thrice blessed? the professional photographer it meant no printing photographs, but such ways are somewhat short on results as compared to every other second? the sun. I was exceedingly anxious to inish up some work for the exhibition and man, as he leaves the chair, swears that the sun. My first stop was in North Carolina, but it seemed to rain and had rained there even more than it did here during the first week of April. My next stop was a followed:

"Don't you know that you are gradually changing a race of ordinarily good-natured." the first week of April. My next stop was at Columbia, S. C., but it was raining there, and I was forced to go down to Atlanta, where I found the sun shining. My work turned out pretty good, though it was somewhat expensive. I assure you. While at Columbia I met a gentleman, a well-known amateur photographer, who, like myself, was hunting for the sun so as to the start of the sta myself, was hunting for the sun so as to finish up some work that he had on hand. His idea, however, was that he was more liable to find the sun north than south, and he proceeded to Boston, while I went to Atlanta. We both got the sun the same day, though we were considerably sepa-

"The simplest temporary cure for a stiff neck or any similar attack of the muscles anywhere," explained a well-known physician to a Star reporter, "is the very free drinking of water. A large glass full of water every half hour, or even oftener, should be taken, and the treatment kept up I can put up with you." for at least half a day. This, it must be remembered, only cures the effects, and unless it is kept up for a long time will hardly get at the cause, which is now generally understood to be an excess of uric acid in the blood. The use of a very large amount of water has a tendency to dilute the blood and increase the supply of the lubricants about the sheaths of the muscles. It is the deficiency of those lubricants that produces what are known as stiff necks. stiff shoulders and the like. Nearly all of the so-called mineral waters can be used, and those that have lime, iron, potash, lithia silence or sodium should be preferred if they are she has handy, but if none of them are getatable the ordinary drinking waters, hydrant, well or spring, can be used. The point is to get an extraordinary amount, so as to dilute the blood as rapidly as possible. I have no ternal use of lubricants, but water can the same thing. Medical treatment, if peoment, is necessary, however, to keep from cures is not the quality of the water used, but the quantity of it. None of the water cures would think of promising any cure

"From actual surveys made by the geolegical survey at various times the highest and lowest points in the city and District are well known, and are accurately marked on the geological map of the District," obof the city, including Capitol Hill, is near the river, but its average height above the is immediately on the river banks. The Secretary at his desk. He explained his highest point in the District is at a place dilemma, and the Secretary sent out a known as Gloria Point, about the center messenger to bring him in. of Tenleytown, where the elevation is put down at 400 feet. Meridian Hill averages about the height of Capitol Hill. The av-locked, as usual. His business was imporrage height in what is known as Soldiers' Home country is about 200 feet. A great known as the downtown or business section, is less than thirty feet above the given river, though as K street is reached the elevation increases."

but little hesitancy in doing so if from thirty to forty glasses are used each day.

For the same reason if a cure is expected

from drinking water a very large quantity

of it must be drunk. Six hours' treatment.

lowever, should cure the ordinary stiff

"The telephone slot machines are doing an enormous work in the matter of taking plained a treasury official to a Star re- the Ohio senator. He was thereupon adporter. "There is nothing to prevent worn- mitted hastily, and Secretary Root being out, mutilated and almost smooth dimes informed of his presence within the sacred precincts consented to see him. The explanation of the Ohio senator's success in sult, many persons keep the worn-out dimes for that particular purpose. Many druggists and others who keep public tele- knocks required to inform the guardian of phones make no objection to taking mutilated dimes any more for the reason that they keep a supply on hand to do a tele-phone business with. When they see that in the slot they simply take it in and hand he will probably meet the same fate as all a worn-out dime in exchange. Of course, other uninitiated callers.

the telephone user makes no objection, and in goes the worn-out or mutilated coin. After it gets in there the telephone com-panies do the rest. Every time they get a quantity on hand, for the government does not care to bother with sums of less than \$100, they send them to a subtreasury, and n Washington to the Treasury Department direct, for redemption. The result is that the telephone companies alone over \$1,000 worth of mutilated or wornout dimes are redeemed each week. Busi-ness people have already begun to notice that the great majority of the dimes now in circulation are in much better condition than they were even six months ago. In a lesser degree the redemption of a great quantity of quarters and halves is effected through the long-distance telephones."

"Do you know," said the round-faced gentleman in an F street barber shop as yours all t' pieces. he held his 15 cents suspended above the outstretched palm of the boss barber, "do you know that any one man on earth who could convey to the minds of all of the own dog, took the hint, and bamboozled his he held his 15 cents suspended above the could convey to the minds of all of the barbers on earth simultaneously that it is entirely unnecessary for barbers to rub the hands over and over a man's face after the razor passes over it would be the one man whom all other men would rise up an

"Don't you know, my silent friend, that the professional photographer it meant no business, for pictures cannot be printed unless there is sunlight. Neither can they be taken as well, though some persoas have wardly another at the barbers who have all kinds of texture of skin, are inwardly another at the barbers who taken as well, though some persons have have all kinds of texture of skin, are inthe nerve in their advertisements to state wardly anathematizing the barbers who that 'photographs are successfully taken in scrape the razor with one hand and rub, any weather. There are artificial ways of rub the face with the other to see 'If it is printing photographs, but such ways are smooth, as they glance out of the window

waited as long as I could for the sun. Finding that I could not wait any longer I took ler's, invest in a razor and strop for self-my work and started off on a trip to find shaving, and then forgets it until the next

the scrape-scrape and rub-rub process? You don't? Well, you ought."

* * * * * * * "I will not live with you another day!" "You'll leave me, will you?" he calmly

asked. "Yes, I will."

"When?" "Now-right off-this minute." "You'll go away?"

"Yes, sir."

"I wouldn't if I were you." "But I will. I defy you to prevent me. I have suffered at your hands as long as

"Oh, I shan't try to stop you," he quietly replied. "I'll simply report to the police that my wife has mysteriously disappeared. They'll want your description and I will give it. You wear No. 5 shoes, you have an extra large mouth, you walk stiff in your knees, your nose turns up at the end, eyes rather on the squint, voice like

"Wretch! You wouldn't dare do that!" she reamed.
"I certainly will, and the description will go in all the newspaper."
They glared at each other a moment in

cupied by the Secretary and his private depended upon if persisted in to do almost secretary are securely locked at the hour named, and all the messengers take their stations inside. The Secretary is thus inaccessible to all except a few newspaper a recurrence of the attack. I really think accessible to all except a few newspaper the success of many of the famous water men who are provided with a code of signals by which they may secure admission at 3 o'clock and see the Secretary for a few minutes in regard to the official transor relief even in the use of three or four few minutes in regard to the official trans-glasses of water in a day, but they have actions of the day. These favored individuals secure admission by knocking on the outer doors of the ante room several times in a peculiar way known only to the initiated. The strict enforcement of the rule has caused great indignation on the part of many public and private individuals who usually have no difficulty in seeing the President and other members of the cab-

inet when it is necessary. A short time ago Secretary Hay wanted to talk to Secretary Root on an important on the geological map of the District," observed an official of the organization to a in China. He walked around to the office Star reporter. "It is a safe rule to say that, except as far as Capitol Hill is concerned, land gets higher and higher from as the entire corps was inside his search mean low water mark as one gets away was futile. Somewhat vexed he returned from the river. The entire eastern section to his office. A gentleman who saw the insengers, who happened to come out on an errand, and he at once went around to the river is much greater than is generally State Department and escorted Mr. Hay supposed, some parts reaching a height of into Secretary Root's office. On another 130 feet. The highest point in the city proper is in the vicinity of 1st and I the ordinary way, went into the office of streets northwest, where the elevation is another official less than a hundred feet given at ninety feet. The lowest away and telephoned personally to the

tant and he was in a hurry. Seeing no messenger he went up to the door and gave portion of the city, and especially what is it several hard raps. Although he wasn't given the correct signal. There was an answering knock from the inside, and the Ohio senator kicked on the door in his impatience. The effect was instantaneous. The door was thrown open and all the messengers were at hand. Although it was against the rule to admit anybody, the doorkeeper was afraid to enforce it against getting the door open is that he had accidentally complied with all the talismani the inner temple that one of the elec-The open sesame is awaited admission. very complicated and altogether different now than he did before, and the next time

NOT ACCORDING TO RULE FACTS ABOUT CHILDREN PLAYED ONLY ONE PIECE

A small boy attached by a raveled rope to a large, lean yellow dog shambled down with a couple of good eyes in his head, 11th street the other afternoon. The dog "that most folks treat young children as had a vicious gleam in his eye; in both of if they were idiots, Stoughton bottles or his eyes, in fact. One of his ears looked cigar-store signs of I've been wondering as if it had been chewed upon by a pair of about that for a long time now. I'm perdidn't grow.

boy along. He strained at the raveled rope

dog into going out into the back yard to

In a similar strain spake the small boy to several ladies who approached him fro the opposite direction, leading dogs of different sizes and types.

'You wants t' watch out, lady," were the boy's words on these occasions, "or this fightin' dawg o' mine'll git away from me her dog down another street if said dog was too large to be picked up.

Near the corner of H street the small boy saw a well-dressed man bearing down upon him and his dangerous animal from the op-posite direction. The well-dressed man was leading by a small chain a Boston terrier. The Boston terrier had a pretty sulky eye himself. He was a thoroughbred, all right, and his eyes were properly bloodshot, and he looked to be pretty much all shoulder muscles and mouth. He strained at his leash as soon as he saw the large, lean ellow dog, and the small boy's dangerous dog strained at his leash, too.

"Better git your mutt away, sir," shout-ed the small boy to the well-dressed man. "This here dawg o' mine is the champeen fightin' dawg o' th' deestrick, an'-" "Oh, I dunno," broke in the well-dressed "He looks pretty nifty and all that, man.

At this instant, however, the yellow dog succeeded in breaking away from the small boy, and, with a terrifying growl of rage and the hair on his spine standing straight up, he leaped at the throat of the Boston terrier, and-

Now, right here, according to all the conventions made and provided and firmly established in such cases, this highly truthful story ought to wind up by an account of the way that bat-eared, ba-ad-looking, vicious, large, lean yellow cur dog salled in and chewed the Boston terrier to a pulp. In situations of this sort, according to the unwritten rules and regulations scrupulous-ly adhered to by all funny writers properly initiated in their craft, it's always the cur dog, led by a small boy, that waltzes in and pulverizes the perky thoroughbred dog, no matter what the natural odds may be against such a performance. In this case, however, a long and unbroken habit of strictly adhering to the truth and nothing but the truth compels the statement that the large, lean yellow dog wasn't in the unt with the Boston terrier at any stage of the route. The Boston terrier, in fact, made the large, lean yellow dog look like eight high in a six-handed jackpot at least four of the players have raised before the draw. The Boston terrier proceeded to scientifically wallop the large, lean, vicious, ba-ad yellow dog right off the map and diagram of H and 11th streets, and the small boy-instead, as They glared at each other a month of silence. Then it was plain to be seen that she had changed her mind.

Secretary Root has a rule that he will not see general callers after 2 o'clock in the afternoon. To enforce this rule all the doors to the suite of three large rooms october 1 the doors to the suite of three large rooms october 1 the silence. Then it was plain to be seen that silence. Then it was plain to be seen that silence. Then it was plain to be seen that silence. Then it was plain to be seen that silence. Then it was plain to be seen that silence. Then it was plain to be seen that silence. Then it was plain to be seen that silence. Then it was plain to be seen that silence. Then it was plain to be seen that silence. Then it was plain to be seen that silence. Then it was plain to be seen that she had changed her mind.

**The bystanders over his dog's triumph—howled and moaned and pleaded with the well-dressed man to take his dog off. The well-dressed man complied with this request in due season, after the Boston terrier had whittled about fourteen square in the funny stories, of winking sage-ly at the bystanders over his dog's triumph—howled and moaned and pleaded with this request in due season, after the Boston terrier had whittled about fourteen square in the funny stories, of winking sage-ly at the bystanders over his dog's triumph—howled and moaned and pleaded with the well-dressed man to take his dog off. The well-dressed man to take his dog off. The well-dressed man complied with this request in due season, after the Boston to the long ago noticed that, and so he never speaks of her ahy more when I see him. I seen dog's triumph—howled and moaned and pleaded with the funny stories, of winking sage-ly at the bystanders over his dog's triumph—howled and moaned and pleaded with the season and the long ago noticed that, and so he never speaks of her ahy more when I see him. I seen dog's triumph—howled and moaned and pleaded with the season and the long ago noticed that, and so he never speak inches of hide from the anatomy of the large, lean yellow dog, and then he tucked his still growling little Boston terrier under his arm and went his way up 11th street, while the disgraced small boy with the cowed and wounded large, lean yellow dog pursued his whimpering way down 11th

If all of these things happened just as the funny writers write them the world would be upside down sure enough. But

"COMMON LAW MARRIAGES."

Reverse Way of Establishing These Matrimonial Alliances. "An action for divorce brought by a woman plaintiff against her alleged husband is an odd way to establish a marriage, it would strike the mind of the average man, and woman, too, with whom is especially associated first a wedding ceremony," said a member of the District bar

to a Star reporter today. "While practicing law in New York some years ago I had an opportunity to observe the practical operations of the principal way by which the so-called common law marriage was proved and established. The calenders of the courts were filled with these cases. They were begun by the alleged wife filing suit for divorce, alimony and counsel fees, the last two considera tions being the principal reasons for the

"Of course, in all suits for divorce legal marriage of the parties must first be proved. The alleged wife would take the means of the divorce proceedings to prove that a civil contract, or, in short, a mere agreement of words, of marriage existed, and adduced such testimony as she could offer of other persons to substantiate the existence of the contract. If she proved to the satisfaction of the court that such a contract existed by her own and corroborative evidence, even though no ceremony had been gone through with, the divorce would be granted, and the marriage thus established. If the case failed, as did a majority of the cases, for a goodly proportion were black-mail cases brought under the protection of the law, she would be figuratively, and to

all intents and purposes, literally thrown out of court.
"The laxity of the law in New York made the state, and especially New York city, the dumping ground for these merecity, the dumping ground for these mere-tricious actions. The legislature has finally, after years of agitation, passed an act requiring a written contract signed by the parties and attested by two witnesses, as evidence of such a marriage. Even this act, as welcome as it must be to the bar and the people of the empire state, is not sufficiently restrictive, leaving the way still open to fraud, false swearing, forgery and blackmall, though in much

lessened degree.

or two other states, notably California, have also sought to do away with the common law marriage. The legislature of California passed an act doing away with such marriages entirely, as they had become a disgrace to the state. Many the suits there have become celebrated by reason of the prominence of the parties. It was a standing joke among the bar of that state that no wealthy man could die without having from one to five al-leged common law widows putting in a claim to the estate of the deceased, and this was practically true. Indeed, so many were these suits against the living, and claims against the estates of the dead, that wealthy men made direct avowals in their wills that they had never been mar-ried, or had been once or twice married. as the case happened to be, giving the dates of the ceremonies and the names of their legal wives. This legislative act will make these causes celebre now impossible, and will strongly tend to es-"As the common law in such states where it is recognized in this respect, holds that the contract of marriage is a civil contract, a bona fide agreement of marriage is as binding, if established and proved, as any other bona fide agreement. It is upon this legal theory that these marriages were upheld in the states named. The legal responsibilities are so many and com-plicated, and the obligations the contracting parties owe to themselves and society so great, that the strictest laws ought to be made and upheld in this, one of the

"Delia," said Mrs. Wanterby, who had some "nice people" to dinner, "it seems to me the coffee looks a trifle weak." "It ain't the coffee's fault, ma'am," re-"Tis too much crame ye put money?" in it. You ain't used to crame, ma'am."

most vital and important matters of hu-

"I wonder why it is," inquired a bachelor canine teeth in an excellent state of preser- feetly positive that I had a better pair of vation. A portion of his tail was obviously ears, a more acquisitive mind, a stronger I'll have to begin at the beginning. Three missing. The top of his blunt head was desire for information and a foxier way of years ago my husband and I spent a coumarked with many scars where the hair making believe that I didn't know any ple of the summer months at Atlantic City. thing when I was five years old than I As usual, there were about five pretty girls Moreover, the large, lean yellow dog gave have at the present moment, when I'm an at our hotel to each fairly presentable many indications that he was ba-ad, and old fogy. I distinctly remember yarns young man, and the competition, as a matnot to be triffed with, as he led the small that were repeated in my presence before | ter of course, was 'something fierce,' as I was five years old-remember 'em word Jack says after spending a week in New every time he saw a dog a block away, and the small boy had all he could do to hang on to him, and was virtually pulled through the air on numerous occasions when the dog spied an enemy down the street, or up the street, or in a yard.

"You better take that dog away," the small boy said several times to other boys who were playing in their own yards with their own dogs. "This here dawg o' mine is bad, an' he's liable t' pull away from me an' hop th' fence an' chaw that poodle o' yours all t' pieces."

And the large, lean yellow dog so completely looked the reputation given to him of the conversation and the small boy had all he could do to men friends would call on her, and they'd get, as women do, to narrating little incidents of a—er—humorous nature, and no account whatsoever 'ud be taken of my presence, and so I grabbed up and caught and remembered every word. I'd craftily presence, and so I grabbed up and caught and remembered every word. I'd craftily presence, and so I grabbed up and caught and remembered every word. I'd craftily presence, and so I grabbed up and caught the girls did dress for him and happened accidentally to pass by him many times on the veranda was a graceful young chap, and there'd be an expression of beatific childish innocence on my face, I've no doubt; but I was listening for all I was worth, all the same, and not a line of the conversation ever got away from me. I have often thought about that, and I'd no sooner let every time he saw a dog a block away, for word. A number of my mother's wo- York. After we'd been at the hotel for a

> into account. I don't mean that sort of sensitiveness which causes some young ones to begin blubbering when they are harshly spoken to, but the kind of sensitiveness which induces many children of a sensitiveness which causes some young ones to begin blubbering when they are harshly spoken to, but the kind of sensitiveness which induces many children of a less emotional nature to lay up feelings of deep wrath—no less deep because it is childish—against persons who deliberately sit down upon them and crush them on the sit down upon them and crush them on the though the state of the entertainers was late in coming, and there was an embarrassing pause in the program, and so the leading mannish-looking young fellow strolled over to the piano in an absent-minded way, pushed back his nitred. Now, we have much long there was a sort of entertainment in the hotel parlor. One of the entertainers was late in coming, and there was an embarrassing pause in the program, and so the leading mannish-looking young fellow strolled over to the piano in an absent-minded way, pushed back his mire thick, way hair, while the girls murther was a sort of the entertainers was late in coming, and the entertainers was late in coming, and the entertainers was late in coming and the entertainers was late in coming. theory that children have mush instead of brains in their heads, and are therefore inbrains in their heads, and are therefore incapable of feeling an affront. I'll give you a little case in point. I've an aunt, my mother's sister, whom I've positively detested ever since I was six years old, altested ever since I was six years old, altested by an aunt of the since I was six years old, altered. Now, isn't he just too grand for anything?' and then he sat down gracefully at the piano stool, struck a rich minor chord and began playing Rubinstein's Melody in F.' He played it beautifully and soulfully, too, with his foot on the soft though I have never seen her since I was that age, nor wanted to see her. My moth-er visited her, out in the country, and took me, a six-year-old, along with her. Now, I wasn't what you could call a 'rubbering' kid; I didn't ask too many questions; I was pretty well trained, and I knew how to behave myself. Well, the parlor organ in the front room of the country home of this aunt of mine interested me a heap. I didn't presume to touch the instrument, but I looked at it a lot during the first few days looked at it a lot during the first few days of the visit. The stops puzzled me considerably. I had never seen them operated, and didn't know what they were for. So one day I very mildly inquired of my aunt, pointing to the stops, 'What are those things for?'
>
> "'Why, to make music, of course—you must be thick,'' she snapped back at me. Well, I curled up in my little shell right there and then. I didn't get the weeps. I didn't say anything to my mother about the incident. I didn't do anything. But I sald to my little self, with just as much

said to my little self, with just as much bitterness of spirit as I am capable of experiencing at this hour: 'All right for you, my good aunt. You've dished yourself with me forever. You don't go with me a little bit. You're a frost so far as my little scroll is concerned. I may be thick, all right, but I'm not so thick but what I can remember, and I'm going to keep right on disliking you until the finish.' I didn't think the matter out in these words, of course, but the spirit of them was there, sure enough, and, as I say, I've had a distinct and decided and unconquerable aversion to that particular aunt of mine ever since. I can't help it. There's no use in my trying to reason it out that in addressing me as she did on that occasion she figured me as she did on that occasion she figured me as simply a young one, and therefore more or less of a nuisance, and all that sort of swash. I don't like her, and I never will like her. Her husband comes on here to Washington once fit a while, and I take him around, and we get along first-ratebut I find myself just naturally curling up manhood as strong as my aversion to this aunt.

"The simple fact is that the impressions conceived when one is in the formative period are vastly more tenacious than those formed when the mind is moderately mature and developed. Take the hero-worshiping proclivities of growing boys as another example of this. When I was growing up in my little town there were certain lads, a few years older than I, whom I looked upon as being little less than demi-gods. They were good swimmers, or good hunters, or good wrestlers, or good fighters, or good tobacco chewers, or good players on the mouth organ—any old thing of the sort that appeals to younger boys—and their accomplishments caused me to lie awake nights wondering if I'd ever get to be as great as they. Well, formed when the mind is moderately ma-I'd ever get to be as great as they. Well, since growing into manhood I've gone back to visit the little old town, and seen these fellows, and found them exceedingly commonplace lumps, who called me 'sir, grinned sheepishly at me—and yet, d'ye know, I still found myself sneakingly lookdown deep in me, as mighty fine, puissant, heroic chaps. And, by the same token, when, on the occasions of these visits, I've met up with the 'girls' I was hopelessly and madly in love with when about seven or eight years old, and found most of 'em to weigh something like 197 pounds, and to be the mothers of a numerous progeny, I've nevertheless been quite unable to disassociate from them in their commonplace maturity the appealing attributes in them that captivated me so many years ago."

Indiana's Tallest Mound. From the Indianapolis News.

The ploughshare of the farmer is slowly but surely obliterating one of the first monuments left in southern Indiana by prehistoric man. One mile south of Petersburg, on the farm owned by James McCoy, is the largest mound in the state. That it was artificially constructed is beyond question, as there are no natural hills in this vicinity, and the land for miles around shows where the dirt was removed for its building. Whether thrown up as a perpetual monument to commemorate the virtues of the ancient Mound Builders or laboriously constructed by the red men as a place of council, or a burying ground for departed braves, is a question that none can an-

Arthur Veatch of Rockport, who was for some years employed by the state in ex-cavating Indian mounds in southern In-diana, has seen the mound, and believes it was the work of a race who lived before the Indians, as the specimens of arms and various implements found in similar mounds do not correspond in any way with the most ancient Indian relics.

The mound is almost one hundred feet above the surrounding country, and covers above the surrounding country, and covers five acres of ground. Until a few years ago the mound rose almost abruptly from the roadside, but the farmers who tilled the adjoining fields have scaled the steep ascent higher and higher each year, until now almost one-half of the elevation is covered with growing grain.

covered with growing grain. When Pike county, was first settled by white men a fort was erected a short distance from the base of the mound, and the mound itself was used as a lookout station and graveyard. Some of the old tombstones are still standing, and mark the last resting place of many ploneers, who died while pushing westward in search of the delusive fountain of health and for

The Rod and the Child.

From the Detroit Journal. Once upon a time there lived in Chicago, Ill., a little boy who would not go to school.

Instead of beating him, his parents appealed to his civic pride. "Unless you go to school," said they, 'you won't be counted in the school cen-

sus, and the school census is often used as a basis for estimating the population of our At this the little boy went to school so assiduously that his mind became af-

"Alas!" cried his parents, for now when it was too late they perceived the unwig-dom of sparing the rod. The Risk He Ran. From the New York Weekly. Old Gentleman-"How am I to know that you are not marrying my daughter for my

Suitor-"And how am I to know that you

"A great mystery was cleared up for me in New York last week," said the Mt. Pleasant matron to the rest of the club before the progressive euchre session was under way. "The matter had been puzzling me for three years, and it was extremely satisfactory to happen upon the solution. I was listening for all I was worth, all the samee, and not a line of the conversation ever got away from me. I have often thought about that, and I'd no sooner let out any remarks in the presence of a five-year-old young one that I didn't want to have remembered and stored up as having proceeded from me than I'd walk backward on a car track.

"The shrewdness of children is not appreciated at all by most people, I think: nor is their extreme sensitiveness taken into account. I don't mean that sort of

been at the hotel a week.
"Well, one evening there was a sort of pedal nearly all the time. The girls just gasped with surprise to find their hero so proficient a performer, for he had never told any of them, it seems, that he could do anything with the piano, and when he finished the 'Melody' the young women just more than flocked around him and lionized They all insisted, of course, that he him. They all insisted, of course, that he continue playing, but he languishingly told them that he was horribly out of practice, and that he had only intended to be a stopgap in the entertainment. He was still at the hotel, buzzed around by the adoring young women, when we left, but he never played again on the piano. They all begged him to play, but he put them off by saying that it had been years since he had had any sort of practice on the instrument. They pouted over this, but it did them no They pouted over this, but it did them no good—he didn't play again.
"Well, we went to Bensenhurst, N. Y.,

for our summer vacation the following year, and whom should we see, as soon as we arrived, but the theatrical-looking young man of the summer before, lolling on the hotel portico with the girls, and being made over just as much as ever. He didn't see us when we arrived. There happened to be a parlor entertainment in the hotel on the evening of our arrival, and the young man, to our great astonishment and bewilderment, went through the identical performance at the piano that he had executed so successfully the summer before at Atlantic City. He played the 'Melody in F' with the same feeling and expression, and received the tremendous applause with which the performance was greeted with the same bored, half-deprecating air. He was still receiving con-gratulations when he caught sight of my husband and me. He flushed a bit, know-ing that we had been present at his little Melody in F' interpolation the summer be fore, but he came over and shook hands and said nothing about it. He resisted all of the appeals to do more pianoforte performing while we remained in Bensonhurst, notwithstanding the protestations of the girls that they were 'just wild' to hear him, and he was still pursuing his calm, victorious course among all of the prettiest maidens of the village when we left.

"Well, my husband and I went to a vaudeville show in New York at one of the and the 'head-line' number on the program was one of those things known as a sketch. I had never heard of the two 'head-liners,' whose names were in big type on the bill. But as soon as the young man came out in the 'drawing room' scene and began to race up and down the stage and complain about the long absence of 'his wife' on her shopping expedition, both my husband and I knew him for our young 'Melody in F' hero of the two seaside resorts. He went on complaining of his wife's continued absence, and the fact that his dinner wasn't ready, and then he sat down at the plane and played-oh, of course, you all know what he played. was the 'Melody in F,' and he played it superbly. He got a vociferous 'hand' from the audience, but he wasn't compelled to do any more playing, for his wife in the had finished his little stunt, and the sketch

progressed to its finish. 'I guess,' said my husband to me on our way out, 'that that Rubinstein thing that our young seaside chap played is the only bit on his musical menu, eh? "I thought so, too, by that time. On the way out my husband met the manager of the theater, whom he knew, and we stood talking for a few moments. As we stood in the lobby, who should enter the front entrance of the theater but our young seaside hero, carrying a heavy suit case, rather dowdy little woman who had played with him in the sketch at his side. went pretty scarlet, but he came up to us and shook hands very nicely, and intro-duced his wife, whom he had only recently married. The wife got into conversation with the manager, and then the young man said to my husband and me in a low tone: suppose you both think I'm a colossal bluff on the musical question. Well, I "'How so?' we inquired, with great in-

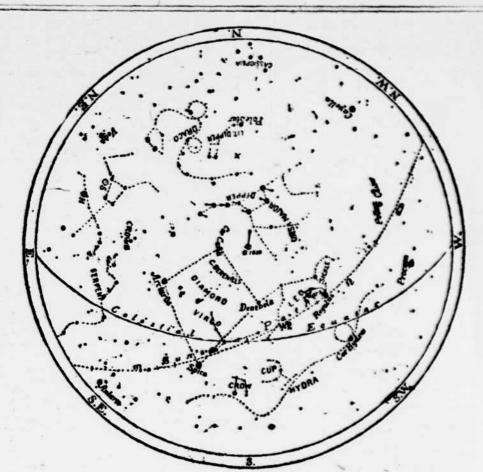
'Oh, you needn't spare me,' he replied. grinning. 'You're bound to know pretty well by this time that that thing I play is the only one on my list. Years ago I was determined to learn just one piece, and I spent a whole winter practicing just that thing, and finally conquered it, but I couldn't play the scales to save my soul. There,' he concluded, 'I'm glad the cat's out of the bag, for we three seem to be fated to run across each other at all sorts of places. However'—and he looked a bit rueful—'I don't suppose you'il ever hear me do that little counterfeit piece of piano work at the seaside any more-for I'm married now."

From the London Telegraph.

Some of the eccentricities of the late Comtesse de Castiglione have come out. At the time of her death she had no fewer than five flats in different parts of Paris. four of which were chiefly used for storing rare furniture and other objects. She lived in the fifth, in the street bearing her name. It contained many roughly made deal boxes and basket trunks packed with rich laces, furs, fans, scent bottles and jeweled knick-knacks. There were fifty fans of the greatest beauty. A summary history of each, and on what occasions to was used, was written on a docket. A great quantity of plate was found in a box in another of the flats, with a tea service in massive carved silver of great value. Her collection of Venetian rose and other Italian guipures is said to be of priceless worth. The parasols and canes are not less remarkable. Canes came into fashion for ladies just before she retired from the world to bury herself alive as a recluse in the very heart of Paris. These articles are in themselves almost a fortune. The cambric body linen is of unbelievable fineness. There are also trunks filled with souvenirs of the Tulleries, which the countess gathered in the ruins of that palace. Pawn tickets have been found for sums amounting to 180,000f. One of covers a famous necklace of pearls that was missed, though she mentioned it in her will. It is worth £12,000. She pawned it for a trifle compared to its real value. The heir of the late countess is a distant cousin, who lives in Genoa.

The dowager empress was in a droll good today. "A note from the German emperor!" anounced the chamberlain.

"A billy doux!" observed her majesty. "And a note from the United States! "A Yankee Doodle doux!" cried this remarkable woman, while gales ment swept over the servile court.



Positions of the principal stars which are above the horizon May 1-15-31, at 8-8-7 p.m.

THE SKIES IN MAY

Some Facts About the Zodiacal Constellations.

FOR SIGNS AND FOR SEASONS

Two Stars That Are of More Than Ordinary Interest.

PLANETS OF THE MONTH

The bright star which may now be seen at 9 p.m. a little east of south and at about two-fifths of the distance from horithe contellation Virgo. At a somewhat in the southern hemisphere.

Gamma Virginis is a beautiful double greater altitude in the southwest stands the meridian is Denebola, a bright secondtude is Arcturus, the brilliant Bear-warden, always easy to identify from the circumstance that it lies on a continuation of per in the Ursa Major, now in its highest position and nearly overhead. Arcturus, Spica, Denebola and Cor Caroli-a star of the third magnitude, the brightest star in the Hunting Dogs (Canes Venatici), situated at three-fifths of the distance from De-nebola to the end star in the Dipper's handle-form a large lozenge-shaped figure known as the Diamond of Virgo, one of the grand landmarks for modern star-gazers in this quarter of the heavens.

At about two-fifths of the distance from Spica to Denebola, in a straight line, is a star of the third magnitude, Gamma Vir-ginis, standing at the center of a Y-shaped figure formed by six or seven stars, one of which is Spica, at the foot of the Y. The group is a quite noticeable one, and is inserver can make of the constella-Virgo, of which, however, it forms only a portion— the upper part. Possibly, the branching arms of this Y, one of which extends west ward from Gamma toward Regulus, the other northeastward to a point near the center of the great Diamond, suggested the wings which adorn the Maiden (Virgo), as she is represented upon charts. Spica marks the wheat-ear which she holds in her left hand.

The Zodine.

Virgo is one of the zodiacal constellations -the sixth, reckoned from Aries, the seventh, if we reckon from the present position of the vernal equinox at the western border of the constellation Pisces. It occupies the place of the "sign" Libra, which the sun enters on passing from the north ern to the southern hemisphere, about the 21st of September. The autumnal equinox-the point at which the sun croses the celes tial equator on that date-is at about two fifths of the distance from Spica to Regulus, very nearly on a straight line drawn from one to the other of these two stars. These zodiacal constellations are, from point of view, the most interesting of all the ancient asterisms. They represen the earliest device of our very remote ancestors to make of the heavens a timekeepr for the regulation of their "works and days." It is in this sense that the heaven ly bodies served primeval man "for signs and for seasons." The fact that the great sphere of the heavens has an apparent annual as well as a daily revolution, and that the different seasons of the year are indi-cated by different star groups—that, for example, in the spring certain stars rise with the sun, that is, appear above the eastern horizon just before the dawn causes the stars to fade from view, and that certain other stars thus rise in the autumnmust have been observed at a time long anterior to that which can be assigned to the origin of astronomy as a science. The zodiac was the natural outcome of this necessity of continual stargazing for the practical purposes of daily life. As it has come down to us it forms a belt in the heavens. sixteen or eighteen degrees in breadth, along the center of which runs the ecliptic, or path of the sun. It is the grand highway of the sun, moon and planets—the "yellow road" of the Chinese. The division of this highway into twelve equal parts, or "signs," was evidently suggested by the movement of the moon, there being twelve complete lunations during the solar year. Each "sign" corresponds, therefore, practically, to one lunar month, in the old way of reckoning, and more exactly to the modern calendar month. Each month the sun, in his apparent annual round of the heav-

ens, performed from west to east, passe through one of these "signs." Meaning of the Name Zodiac.

The name "zodiac" given to this belt of constellations is of Greek origin, and signifies "animal (girdle)," the latter part of the name having been dropped. But while the name is Greek, there is abundant evidence that the zodiac itself was borrowed by the Greek astronomers from the Chaldeans. Assyrian cylinders and inscriptions indicate for the existing names and order of its signs an antiquity of at least 4,000 years. Centuries before Sardanapalus reigned at Nineveh, according to Lenormant, the

eighth month was known as the "month of the star of the Scorpion," the tenth be-longed to the "star of the Goat" (Capri-corn), and the twelfth to the "star of the Fish of Hea" (Pisces).

Two of the stars of Virgo are of especial interest—Spica and Gamma. It was from observations of the first of these two stars that Hipparchus, the father of mathematical astronomy, who flourished in the second century, B. C., discovered the movement known as the "Precession of the Equi-noxes," that is to say, the fact that the two points at which the sun crosses the celestial equator in passing from one hemis-phere to the other are not fixed, but are slowly sliding along the ecliptic, in a direc-tion from east to west. The movement is caused by a slow gyratory motion of the earth, as it spins on its axis, in consequence of which the plane of its equator and there-fore the great circle in which this plane cuts the starry sphere—the celestial equa-tor—are subject to a continual change. The ecliptic remains fixed in its position among the stars, but the celestial equator is continually swaying from its position, movement taking place at a rate such that the two crossing points perform a complete revolution of the heavens in about 25,800 years. In the time of Hipparchus Spica about two-fifths of the distance from hori-zon to zenith, is Spica, the Wheat-ear, in in consequence of this shift of the equator,

Regulus, in Leo, easily identified from its brightness, easily separable with a small position at the end of the handle of the sickle, which forms the Lion's head and is to say, its two components are bound toshoulders. East of Regulus and nearly on gether by mutual attraction and revolve about one another, or rather about their common center of gravity. It is one of the magnitude star, in the tail of Leo. Still first of the binary stars discovered, by Sir farther east and at about the same altithe last century. Another binary in Her-schel's first list is the star Castor, the more northerly of the twins (Gemini), now to be seen at the hour of our observation, low in the curve of the handle of the Great Dip-per in the Ursa Major, now in its highest about 175 years; that of Castor is supposed to be about 1,000 years.

The Planets.

Mercury will be a morning star, but invisible, until May 14, and after that date an evening star. It will not be visible as such, however, until about June I.

Venus has been an evening star since April 30, but throughout this month she will be too close to the sun to be visible to

the naked eye. Mars continues to be an interesting evening star, in Leo, its well-known ruddy light contrasting strongly with the paler yellow light of Regulus, near which star it now is. On April 5 Mars was stationary, at a point about eight degrees northwest of Regulus. Since that date it has moved eastward, taking a downward curve, which

close of the month it will be about ten de

grees to the east of that star. Jupiter, in Sagittarius, has become evening star, rising on the first of this month, at about 11 o'clock p.m. Saturn, also an evening star, in the same constel-lation, rises a half hour later. Uranus is an evening star, about ten degrees north-east of Antares, in the Scorpion, rising an hour and a half before Jupiter. All three of these planets run so low as to be unfavorably situated for telescopic observa-tion in the northern hemisphere.

Hard corns are produced by friction and pressure. Very loose footgear may be more hurtful than tight. The boot should perfectly fit the foot. The best way to get rid of a hard corn is to place over it a shield and to attack the growth with salicylic acid collodion. After some few applications the outer layers will be easily removable. By perseverance the corn will be brought even with the skin surface. If now the part is completely protected from pressure and friction, the deeper, "down-growing" center will gradually disappear, partly by absorption and partly by being pushed to the surface. The acid should be used now and again until where the corn once was there is a smooth new skin.

Soft corns always arise from pressur and moisture. The feet, when carefully tended never develop these painful growths. When undertaking treatment the first essential is to wipe the feet thorough ly after they have been wet. If the parts are moist naturally they ought to be wiped at least twice daily. After doing so an absorbent and soothing powder should be applied freely. Starch and boracic acid in equal parts will be found useful. At night do not apply the powder, but instead lay on with a brush equal parts of salicylic acid collodion and fluid hydrochlorate of morphia.

This plan will suffice, but another that has proved very successful is as follows At night the parts are thoroughly dried Then this mixture is laid on with a brush Fluid sulphate of atropine, one dram; saturated solution of alum, one dram. This will dry and harden the sodden tissue Apply for six nights. On the seventh use the salicylic and morphia. If the corn is between the toes, wadding should be placed

The agony that may be caused by neglected soft corn is altogether out of proportion to the apparent cause of the Brief pain can be borne with a smile, but when prolonged it is bound to affect the facial expression even of most stolcal.

First beggar-"Why didn't you tackle

that lady? She might have given you something!" Second beggar-"I let her go because understand my business better than you. never ask a woman for anything when she is alone; but when two women



Bibulous Binks-"Gad, it's freezing again!

"Them pin't donkeys, Billy?" 're donkeys with their foot ball jerseys on!"

THEIR FIRST VISIT TO THE ZOO.